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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**“SECOND CHANCE” FOR CONGRESS ACCORDING TO FASEB AND PATIENT GROUPS**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has joined forces with the Alzheimer’s Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association and other voluntary health organizations and scientific societies in urging Congress to revisit the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Calling yesterday’s vote rejecting the conference report a “second chance to get the country back on track in pursuing life saving treatments and cures,” the groups advocate for support of the Senate-passed Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation, which funds NIH in fiscal year 2006 at \$29.4 billion. This number represents a 3.7% increase from last year, a level that barely keeps apace with the inflationary cost of research.

“We recognize the budget challenges facing our nation,” states the coalition’s letter, which was sent to all members of the House of Representatives. “However, meeting those challenges should not come at the expense of continued progress in the fight against cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease and other illnesses.” Also included in the letter was an advertisement that has run all week in *Congress Daily*, signed by 550 organizations representing more than 125 million Americans who support greater NIH funding. “The United States has been and will always be a nation with competing priorities,” says Jon Retzlaff, FASEB’s Director of Legislative Relations. “But the American public clearly wants Congress to continue our strong commitment to health. The enormous promise of medical and scientific research will not be realized without adequate funding for NIH.”

The complete letter may be viewed [here](#).

*FASEB is composed of 23 societies with more than 65,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB’s mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.*